

attempts, generally from 1 to 3, the haunt of the specimen can be easily located. The location is facilitated by the fact that in most cases the forms under consideration live in colonies of varying number and they generally enter or leave their haunts one or two at a time so that the process of departure from and return to the haunt of the whole colony is spread over a considerable period depending upon the size of the colony. After the location of the haunt the specimens can be collected by various common methods depending upon the nature of the haunt. Two of these, however, need special mention.

(a) If the specimens are hidden in deep holes, they can be collected by tying a butterfly net around the haunt. Most of the specimens easily enter the net when they come out in the evening.

(b) If the haunt consists of crevice having one or a few openings, the openings except one are blocked with cotton or other material and cigarette smoke is blown into the hole for a few minutes till the bats come out. This method can be used for collection during any time of the day.

Only a few individuals should be collected and the rest left for observation in their natural habitat which they do not generally leave for sometime if the collection does not involve considerable disturbance.

The method has been found suitable especially for the following species: *Taphozous l. longimanus* Hardwicke, *T. k. kachhensis* Dobson, *Rhinolophus l. lepidus* Blyth, *Hipposideros f. fulvus* Gray, *H. galeritus brachyotus* Dobson, *Pipistrellus c. coromandra* Gray, *P. m. mimus* Wroughton, *P. ceylonicus indicus* Dobson, *Scotozous d. dormeri* Dobson and *Scotophilus h. heathi* Horsfield.

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#### 4. A NOTE ON BODY COLOUR AND BREEDING HABITS IN CAPTIVITY OF COMMON PALM CIVET (*PARADOXURUS* *HERMAPHRODITUS*) OF ORISSA

Prater (1971), has described the normal body colour of the common Palm Civet as 'black or blackish-brown civet with long coarse hair . . . , the new coat, before it is fully grown, generally

shows a pattern of longitudinal stripes on the back and spots on the flanks, shoulders and thighs. The limbs are always black or dark brown. Facial markings variable, . . . .

Four young common Palm Civets (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*) were procured from Simlipal National Park in Mayurbhanj district of Orissa on 8-v-70 at an estimated age of 20 days. Their body colours were:—

(a) in two females and one male creamish-white throughout the body coat except the face, head, upper parts of the neck and shoulders from the elbow joints or the middle of the external side of the fore-arms upwards and are large or two small patches at the base of the tail, which were black in colour. The hind limbs and fore-limbs below the elbow joints or middle of the fore-arms were creamish-white. White patches or spots below and above the eyes were present;

(b) in the other male the body colour was black except at the tip of the tail of 5 cm length which was creamish-white and white spots below and above the eyes were present.

*Breeding*:—One of the females described above under (a) was allowed to remain with the male, (b) at the Nandankanan Biological Park (Orissa) from 6-x-70. Copulation was observed from 30-i-71 to 1-ii-71. On 3-iv-71 the female gave birth to three young (males) (gestation period of 60 days). The colour pattern of the body coat of the young was almost the same as described above under (a). The birth weight of the young was from 69 to 102 gm (average of 83 gm) the length from tip to tip was from 28 cm to 30 cm with an average of 29 cm and the tail length was from 11 cm to 13 cm with an average of 12.2 cm. The eyes were closed at birth and the young were fully furred. Two of the three young were eaten by the mother within 24 hours of birth. The eyes of living young opened on the 10th day. The young was seen taking banana along with the mother at the age of 6 weeks onwards. The mother carried the young by holding the middle of the body. The young one which weighed 102 gm at birth, weighed 995 gm on 3-vii-71 (3 months).

There is no mention of birth weight and size, gestation period, and age of opening of the eyes of the new born young in the available literature (Prater, loc. cit.; Walker *et al.* 1964; Asdell 1964; Crandall 1965). The litter sizes are given as 3 to 4 (Prater loc. cit.), 3 to 4, sometimes as many as 6 (Asdell loc. cit.) and 2 to 4 (Walker *et al.*, loc. cit.).

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NATIONAL PARK,  
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September 15, 1971.

A. P. TRIPATHY

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### 5. AN OBSERVATION ON THE BEHAVIOUR OF NILGIRI TAHR (*HEMITRAGUS HYLOCRIUS*) WHEN THREATENED BY WILD DOG OR DHOLE (*CUON ALPINUS*)

About five o'clock one evening while returning from the Erivikulam camp I saw a large herd of Tahr on a ridge above the path. As the wind was favourable I decided to stalk them and try to take some photographs.

On reaching the ridge top I found that they had moved about 100 yds over the crest and were standing in a tightly bunched group above a fairly steep cliff face. The fact that they had moved while I was stalking them surprised me at the time, as they could neither have seen nor scented me during my approach. The herd numbered approximately 80 animals and consisted of all age groups from kids of about four months to yearlings and immature and mature bucks and does. I approached under cover to within about 30 yds and from there began to photograph them. In order to do this I stood up and was greeted by alarm sneezes when they saw me. They did not, however, exhibit their usual behaviour in these circumstances. Normally they wheel round and bolt a few yards, before finally making off altogether when they have established that the cause of